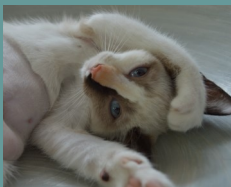
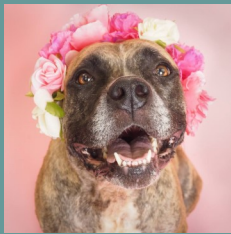




# Trailin' Tails

JULY — SEPTEMBER 2016



*"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened."*

- Anatole France

## The Dog Days of Summer!

This summer has been especially tough with record temperatures, crowded shelters and lots of lost pets.

But it isn't all bad—in fact, the community support over the last two months has been overwhelming and we are so very grateful.

This quarter's newsletter is dedicated to the Dog Days of Summer and what everyone at Maricopa County Animal Care & Control is doing to help.

We want to provide you with a glimpse into what goes on during our busiest time of the year. With more than 100 animals entering our shelter system every single day, staff and volunteers are working extra hard to ensure that as many of these pets as possible are placed into loving homes or rescue groups.



**MCACC Alums Arnold and Krissy take a dip in one of our play yards**



Perhaps you already know what it is like during the summer months or maybe you'll be surprised. Either way, we invite you to hang on and come along for the ride ....

**Shelter resident Bashful takes a pool break during a walk at our East Valley Animal Care Center.**

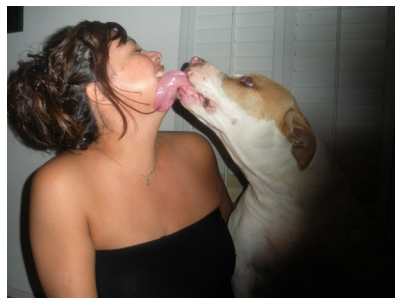


# Send Us Your Happy Tail!

Did you adopt a dog or cat from MCACC? We'd love to hear how they are doing. Send your stories and a photo to:

Public Information Office  
MCACC  
2500 S. 27th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85009

Or email: [gablem@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:gablem@mail.maricopa.gov)



## Happy Tail

Dear MCACC,

It has been a little over two months since I made the decision to adopt Zeke from MCACC's West shelter. All Zeke wanted to do was play ball and show off to us. He was happy and full of life. I had just lost my 14-year-old German Shepherd to hip dysplasia, and it was time to heal my soul. The only question? We wondered if he would get along with my daughter's Chihuahua.

They didn't care for each other at first but are quickly making progress! Zeke is everything I have hoped he would be. Obedience trained, housetrained, and follows me everywhere. We love him and thank the shelter and those who helped us find him. We will make you proud — this is not the last you will hear of Zeke!

The Dembski Family

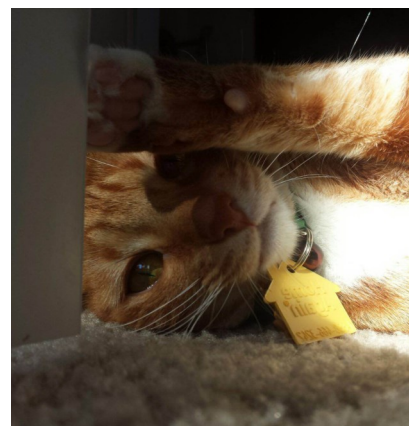
Hello!

I'd like to share some pictures of my furry daughter, Remi. I adopted her a few months back from MCACC's East Valley Animal Care Center in Mesa. I thank life for bringing this little angel to my life.

We are so attached and have an amazing connection. Adopting her has been the most rewarding decision of my life.

Thank you!

Sofia E.



Remi



Chai and Zeke



# Extreme Heat Relief for Pets

The summer's extreme heat was nearly unbearable. When shelter staff heard the forecast for June, a plan was immediately set into motion.

While the shelter kennels have evaporative cooling staff hoped for some added relief for the stray and adoptable dogs.

cool. Non-toxic, gel filled cooling pads, evaporative cooling bandanas, wading pools, portable fans that clip onto kennel doors — anything you could think of to keep pets comfortable.

Within days, LOADS of Amazon boxes began arriving at

MCACC's West Valley Animal Care Center in Phoenix.

The massive support from the community was overwhelming.

An added bonus of the generosity and

kindness? A boost in employee morale! Staff was overhead making comments such as,



"Wow, people do like us!" and "It's so nice to see the public wanting to help us out!"

The best part is to walk through the kennels and see the dogs lounging in their wading pools or resting comfortably on a cooling gel pad.

If you are interested in helping, size C and D batteries are needed to help keep the clip-on kennel fans running. You can bring gifts to either shelter during business hours.



An Amazon.com Wish List was created and filled with items designed to help keep pets

## Meet Cain—Ready for Rio!

We thought some of the dogs would enjoy the small wading pools that were donated. But who knew that these little gems would uncover the hidden talents of some of our shelter pups!

Cain is a happy and energetic American Pit Bull Terrier who is looking for a new home. During a recent outing in the play yard, we discovered that Cain liked to swim — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0mIUZLeXhY&feature=youtu.be>

Cain is currently at our West Valley Animal Care Center in Phoenix. His adoption fee is just \$20 and includes neuter, rabies vaccine and license.



## Volunteers Brave the Heat, Too!



Sometimes the dogs need a lift!

MCACC volunteers are the heart of our agency. They provide the exercise and socialization for our shelter pets and we couldn't do it without them.

Even though the hot weather has been tough, our volunteers still show up every day for their regular shifts.

Exercise time is scheduled earlier in the day or late in

the afternoon during the summer months.

Our volunteers have become creative and resourceful when it comes to finding ways to keep the shelter dogs cool.

Inexpensive sprinklers are very popular (for pets and humans) during our weekend dog walks.

Dogs are given a quick hose down after walking in order to make sure they are keeping cool and safe.

Volunteers bring in frozen pupsicles for the shelter

dogs on a regular basis and the pups love the cool treats!



We are always in need of more volunteers! If you are interested, the first step is to complete a volunteer application online at <http://www.maricopa.gov/pets/help.aspx>.

From there you'll attend an orientation, training and soon you'll be ready to go!

We hope to see you at our shelter soon!



Sprinkler time for Lyla

## Ice Wagon Delivers Free Ice

Special thanks to our new friends at the Ice Wagon in Laveen. When they heard that we were searching for ice to put in the kennels at our East and West Valley Animal Care Centers, they immediately offered to donate eight TONS!

Once the ice was delivered MCACC staff and volunteers distributed it throughout the kennel buildings.

Many dogs licked or chewed at the ice and others preferred to lay

next to it and enjoy the coolness.

The community donated money so that more ice days can take place throughout the hot summer months. Stay tuned!





# July 5th — Our Busiest Day of the Year!

Despite regular warnings about the importance of keeping pets indoors during July 4th celebrations, our shelters were once again filled with lost and found animals on July 5th. The lobbies at both locations were packed with worried pet owners in search of missing dogs or cats.

From July 1 thru July 6 our Mesa and Phoenix locations took in 589 stray animals and 122 owner surrendered pets. On July 5th, our Animal Control Officers brought in 85 animals. Most of these were dogs who had been found during fireworks celebrations the previous night. Special thanks to the kind residents of Maricopa County who brought these lost dogs into their homes and kept them safe until our officers could arrive.

The good news is that from July 4 thru July 10 we were able to reunite 124 dogs to their owners (74 from our West Valley Animal Care Center and 50 from our East Valley Animal Care Center).

While the fireworks are over, don't forget that we may still see monsoon storms! Keep your pet safe during thunderstorms.

## Calming Crew Helps Shelter Dogs

While most people were hosting BBQs and preparing to watch fireworks displays, there was a small group of staff and volunteers at our Mesa shelter striving to spread calm. With Tempe Town Lake next door to this location, we were concerned that the fireworks would be especially loud and scary for our shelter pets.

The self-proclaimed "calming crew" distributed Kongs filled with peanut butter, spritzed kennel bedding with calming spray, plugged in portable radios tuned to music and slipped ThunderShirts on dogs who appeared stressed. (Thanks to Kristy Siefkin/Fox 10 for securing a ThuderShirt donation.)

<http://www.fox10phoenix.com/news/arizona-news/169692521-story>



## Adoption Promotion Offered Free Microchips



The SNIFFAZ Board of Directors presents a check for \$75,000 to Friends of Animal Care & Control

Leading up to the holiday, MCACC offered \$20 adoptions and complimentary microchips for each adopted dog and cat. The goal was to find homes for our pets also to stress the importance of proper identification for our newly adopted dogs and cats. Especially surrounding the July 4th holiday.

During the Dog Days of Summer Adoption Special (June 27 thru July 10) MCACC found adoptive homes for 709 dogs and cats. That's **301 MORE animals** than were adopted during the same time period in 2015!

Special thanks to our friends at Maddie's Fund for sponsoring the cost of microchips and for helping to make this adoption promotion an unbelievable success!

## June Numbers Improve from 2015



Max! One of the many dogs adopted during the month of June

Despite the busy summer months, we're happy to report that our numbers for June are better than they were last year!

From June 1 thru June 30, 2016 we took in 1,960 dogs and cats. That's 65 animals every day. And while that is a lot of pets, it's 63 fewer animals than we took in last June.

Our adoptions were up dramatically — 610 dogs and cats found homes in June. Up from 340 adoptions in June 2015.

Fewer animals coming into the shelter and more animals being adopted resulted in a decrease in euthanasia. And while 410 euthanized pets is too many, it is a decrease from the 521 that were

euthanized in 2015. We are hopeful that we can continue the positive trend throughout the summer months.

Stay tuned as we prepare our reports for FY16 (which ended June 30th). We'll be sure to share the statistics with you as soon as we have them!

## Swiper Finds His Family (again)



Swiper reunited with his family after more than two years!

Swiper has always been afraid of loud noises. In fact, two years ago the American Pit Bull Terrier mix escaped his yard by knocking down a fence during a monsoon storm.

Despite being micro-chipped, his family never found him.

Until July 6th.

That's when they received a call from staff at our West Valley Animal Care Center in Phoenix.

Apparently Swiper got out again, this time during the fireworks celebration.

Swiper was brought to our Phoenix shelter as a stray

and immediately scanned. Because his family was responsible and made sure the information on the microchip was kept current, we were able to call and let them know that Swiper was at the shelter.

At first, they thought we were referring to their other dog—who they knew was safely at home. Then they realized this was SWIPER!

Although it had been more than two years since they'd been apart, Swiper recognized his family immediately.

We wish there were more stories like Swiper's. The

reality is, most of the animals arriving at MCACC shelters come in with no form of identification.

Of the 36,047 dogs and cats that came to MCACC in FY15, only 4,384 were reunited with their families.

Please be sure your dog or cat is wearing proper identification at all times and supplement collars and ID tags with microchips.

If you have lost or found a pet, be sure to check out our interactive mapping tool and other lost/found resources on our website at [pets.maricopa.gov](http://pets.maricopa.gov).

# Last Minute Plea for Foster Homes

Days after the July 4th holiday and the influx of stray dogs arriving at MCACC shelters, staff found themselves huddled in an office and working to come up with ways to create more kennel space. Stat!

Emergency foster programs have worked well for other shelters, so MCACC decided to implement a Foster Fast Track Program.

Two days later and citizens from across the County were gathered at MCACC to learn about how they could help.

Orientations were scheduled for July 8, 9 and 10 at both East

and West Valley Animal Care Centers. Staff from different shelter divisions came together to learn how to train those

Was it a success? In one week-end more than 70 new foster families had completed applications and nearly 30 dogs and cats left the shelter and headed into temporary homes.

The pets will remain in foster care for a couple of weeks and will return to the shelter once the hustle and bustle of July 4th has subsided.

If you don't think fostering changes lives, check out the difference that just ONE DAY in a foster home made for Presley (pictured). His foster mom is working diligently to find him a permanent home (unless she falls in love with him first!).



people interested in becoming foster families to a shelter pet in need.

*Interested in becoming an MCACC foster parent? Attend one of our regularly scheduled foster orientations. Visit [www.maricopa.gov/pets](http://www.maricopa.gov/pets) for information.*

# Summer Months Tough for Employees



The hot weather and busy shelters are difficult for pets, but many people forget that this is an extremely tough time for our staff. Leading up to the July 4th holiday, staff knows that kennel space is at a premium as more and more animals continue to be surrendered.

We asked one kennel staff person how she handles work during the summer months and here's what she said, "Every day I go home to my dog. At 13-years-old she wags her whole body, brings me anything she can find and shows me all her teeth in a big smile. It makes my day every day. She has taught me how much animals affect us in this life and I honestly couldn't live without them. So with that love I have committed myself to the dogs at the shelter. They help me get through the rough days. And the volunteers! They bring dogs to me to hug and kiss. We couldn't do this without our volunteers. I am grateful to every last one of them and everything they do for us."

The shelter isn't an awful place. In fact, it is the best place that some of these animals have ever had. We are trying our best and we really, really love these dogs and cats."





## **Maricopa County Animal Care & Control**

**Come Visit Us!**

### **West Valley Animal Care Center**

(Adoptions, Lost & Found, Licensing)  
2500 S. 27th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85009

### **East Valley Animal Care Center**

(Adoptions, Lost & Found, Licensing)  
2630 W. Rio Salado Parkway  
Mesa, AZ 85201



# **FRIENDS of Animal Care & Control**



Tim, an Army veteran who suffers from severe PTSD, was having trouble certifying his beloved dog Nala as a therapy dog because she wasn't spayed. He thought he couldn't afford the procedure, until he heard about the free spay/neuter surgeries made possible by the generous donations of Friends of Animal Care & Control (FRIENDS).

Thanks to you, thousands of Maricopa County pet parents like Tim get the help they need each year. FRIENDS is a 501(c)(3) non-

profit organization that raises money to support shelter intervention programs at MCACC. The largest of these programs is the Spay Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP provides no-cost spay/neuter services to low-income residents of Maricopa County.

Nala is now on her way to becoming a certified therapy dog, and Tim will soon be able to live a normal life. Without your support, we wouldn't be able to make a difference in the lives of people and pets like Tim and Nala. Please visit [www.azfriendsofanimals.org](http://www.azfriendsofanimals.org) to make a donation.



Tim and Nala